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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Staaken Airfield

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - one sketch on ditto

REMARKS

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1. Three twin-engine transports landed at the Staaken (N 53/Z 65) airfield between 6 and 7 p.m. on 15 February 1951. (1) The landing lights installed on the wings of the planes were switched on during the landing. The searchlight west of the field was not in operation.
2. Soviet soldiers were digging trenches in the northwestern corner of the field on 16 February. (2) The aircraft parked in front of the hangars could not be identified because of poor visibility.
3. During the morning of 21 February, there was intensive local flying with single-engine ground attack aircraft at the field. The visibility was good, but the degree of cloudiness was variable. Single-engine high-wing monoplanes and biplanes practiced flying during the evening while the searchlight in the northwestern section of the field was in operation. The searchlight paused for 5 minutes after each series of ten rotations.
4. The loud noise of engines was heard from the direction of the hangars at 7:30 a.m. on 22 February. Ground attack aircraft taxied to the northern landing field where intensive activity of personnel and motor vehicles was observed. At 8:40 a.m. a ground attack plane took off and headed southwest. It landed again at 9:10 a.m. At the same time, six ground attack aircraft of the same type flew over the field heading south. After 9:40 a.m. the loud noise of engines was heard again. Between 10:30 and 10:55 a.m. more than 40 ground attack planes took off individually and also in formation of three's on the M-S runway. The aircraft assembled over the field and then headed southwest at an altitude of about 200 meters. One of the planes towed a sleeve target. One ground attack plane took off from the field at 11 a.m. and headed southwest towing a sleeve target. At 11:40 a.m. a ground attack plane dropped its sleeve target over the field and then landed. The formation of ground attack aircraft returned from the southwest at 11:45 a.m. Forty-six planes were counted. (3) Landings were made individually and lasted until 12:10 p.m. The planes parked again in the southeastern section of the field. All of the aircraft had white propeller hubs,

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2

white upper edges on the rudder assemblies, and white numbers on the sides of their fuselage. The consecutive numbers 1 to 46 were seen. (4)

25X1A

~~Comments.~~

- (1) The aircraft, IL-2s, belong to the air transport squadron stationed in Staken.
- (2) The digging of trenches is reported for the first time. For location of trench, see Annex.
- (3) This information confirms that the field is occupied by one ground attack regiment. According to a sketch drawn by source but not forwarded, the regiment flew over the airfield in the following formation: one flight of three planes, followed by a V-formation of seven planes and then formations of eight, nine, ten and nine aircraft. This flight formation again confirms previous observations that a ground attack regiment consists of four squadrons and a leading flight. The aircraft observed were IL-10s.
- (4) The same markings were reported previously by another source. See The white upper edges on the rudder assemblies are typical for the ground attack regiment.

25X1A

1 Annex: 1 - one sketch on ditto.

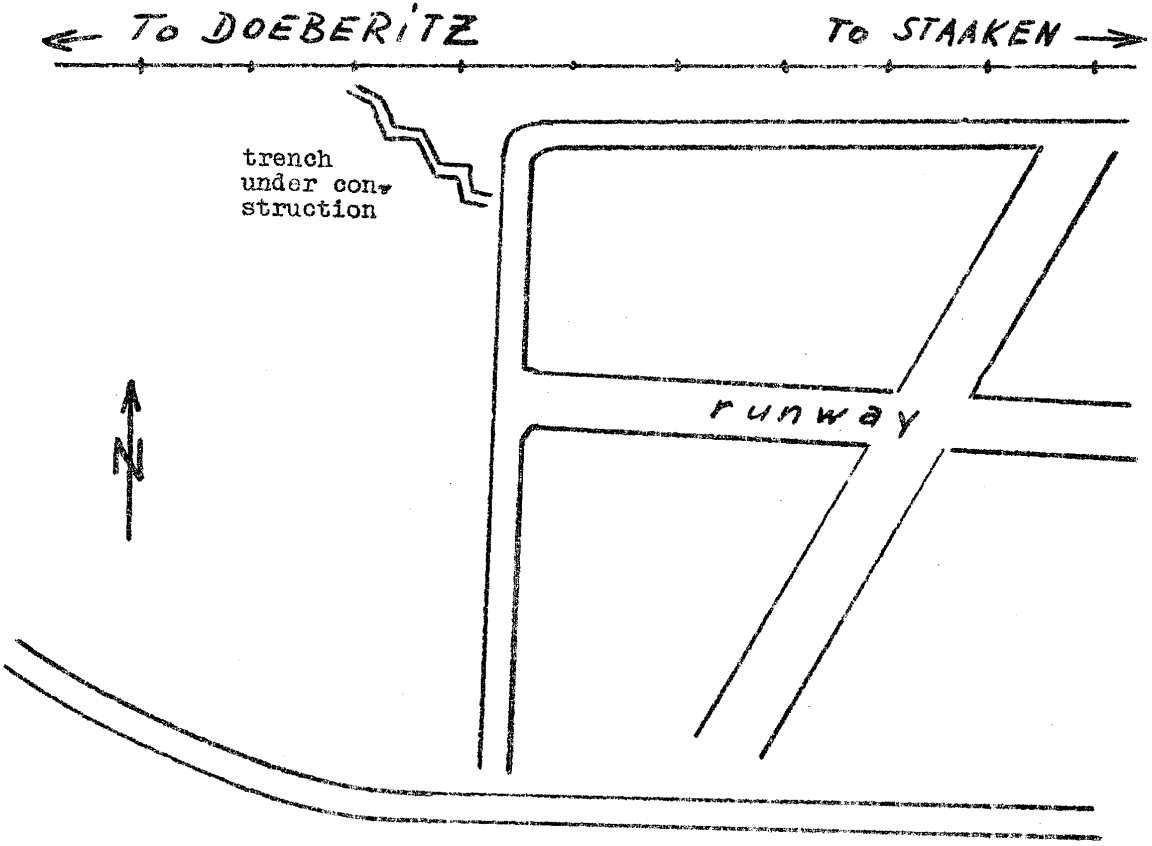
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